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PENNSYLVANIA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
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MORGAN'S SCALE

Morgan's scale (Chrysomphalus dictyospermi Morgan) is a pest of palms, pandanus, rubber plants and ferns growing in greenhouses and in the home. It is often carried into the home window garden on some plants purchased at a greenhouse. In California and Florida it is an out-door pest on citrus fruits and avocados.

The female scale is about 1/16 of an inch in diameter, very light brown to grayish in color, flat and thin. The male scale is similar to that of the female, but more elongate and smaller. These insects in countless numbers suck the juice of the plants, and weaken their vitality to such an extent that the leaves turn yellow and drop. If not treated the plants will soon become sick-ly and die or have to be discarded on account of their unsightly condition.

Control.- The best means to control this pest is to fumigate the infested plants in an air-tight box with $\frac{1}{4}$ of an ounce of sodium cyanide for each 100 cubic feet of space, or the scale may be removed by hand but it is a long tedious process.

Weekly dipping, washing or spraying with a tobacco decoction will kill all of the young, if repeated for ten to twelve weeks a control may be had. Sponging off the scale, on such large leaved plants as rubber plants with whale-oil soap solution (1 pound in 1 gallon of warm water) is often used but gives rather uncertain results if not thoroughly applied.